

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SAB-01 IO-10 FEA-01 INT-05 EUR-12

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R 170800Z MAY 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1995

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DEPT PASS ALL ARAB CAPITALS, LONDON, MOSCOW, PARIS, TEHRAN, TEL AVIV
FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, EG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO IRAQ

1. PRESIDENT SADAT'S MAY 14-16 VISIT TO BAGHDAD, THE FIRST
BY AN EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STATE IN DECADES, WAS TREATED AS MAJOR
POLITICAL EVENT. IT WAS CULMINATION OF YEAR-LONG EFFORT BY
BOTH SIDES TO BRING IRAQ BACK INTO ARAB FOLD. WHILE VISIT
APPEARS TO HAVE REINFORCED ARAB SOLIDARITY VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL,
ALBEIT WITHOUT FULL AGREEMENT ON EITHER BASIC ANALYSIS OR
TACTICS, CONCRETE RESULTS OF TRIP WERE ECONOMIC.

2. WARM RECEPTION OF SADAT IS VERY MUCH IN KEEPING WITH
REGIME'S NEW ARAB POLICY; I.E. POLITICAL AND OTHER DIFFERENCES
AMONG ARAB REGIMES MUST BE SUBORDINATED TO BUILDING OF ARAB
STRNGTH AND SOLIDARITY. SADAT HAS ENCOURAGED THIS TREND IN
IRAQ BY SENDING ASHRAF MARWAN HERE TO BRIEF IRAQIS AFTER
EACH NEGOTIATION. MEDIA TREATMENT OF VISIT AND SADAT'S
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PRESS CONFERENCE MADE CLEAR THAT WHILE DIFFERENCES

REMAIN, THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE WORKING TOWARD SAME
BASIC GOALS.

3. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, SADAT VISIT DID NOT ADD ANYTHING
ESSENTIALLY NEW TO AUGUST 1974 AGREEMENTS, BUT IT
SHOWED IRAQ WAS DISPOSED TO TAKE GENEROUS INTERPRETATION
TO ITS OBLIGATIONS BY MAKING GRANTS RATHER THAN LOANS
FOR ONE MILLION TONS OF CRUDE OIL (VALUED AT 80 MILLION
DOLLARS) AND 35 MILLION DOLLARS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A
PART OF PORT SAID TO BE KNOWN AS IRAQI QUARTER. NO
MENTION WAS MADE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 1974 AGREEMENT
TO SET UP JOINT COMPANIES FOR AUTOMOBILES, TRACTORS AND
RAILROAD EQUIPMENT (BAGHDAD 187) BUT AGREEMENT WAS
ANNOUNCED TO SET UP A BILATERAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
WITH CAPITAL OF 10 MILLION DOLLARS TO UNDERTAKE PROJECTS
IN GULF AREA.

4. COMMENT: ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
WHOSE ECONOMIES ARE LARGELY NON-COMPLEMENTARY CAN ONLY
BE INTENSIFIED IF, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THE GOVERNMENTS
OF BOTH SIDES MAKE THIS A HIGH PRIORITY POLICY GOAL. SUCH
APPEARS TO BE THE CASE AND THE MAJOR STEP WAS MADE IN
AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 5, 1974 WHICH COMMITTED IRAQ IN PRIN-
CIPLE TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO EGYPT'S OIL IMPORT
NEEDS AND TO TAKE A LARGER NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN MISR
AUTOMOBILES WHILE COMMITTING EGYPT TO ASSIST, IN UN-
SPECIFIED WAYS, THE IRAQI DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND
PLACING BOTH GOVERNMENTS BEHIND THE ULTIMATE CREATION
OF A SERIES OF BILATERAL CORPORATIONS TO MANUFACTURE
AUTOMOBILES, TRACTORS AND RAILROAD EQUIPMENT. IRAQ
IS NOT DESPERATELY IN NEED OF ANY EGYPTIAN RESOURCES,
BUT WILL PROFIT FROM THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL
(ESPECIALLY THROUGH ITS ABILITY TO MOVE GOODS BY TRUCK
FROM AQABA) AND COULD PRESUMABLY USE INFUSIONS OF BOTH
SKILLED AND UNSKILLED EGYPTIAN MANPOWER. NO MENTION
WAS MADE OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS TO SEND 5,000 EGYPTIAN
FARMERS TO IRAQ FOR PILOT PROJECT.

5. FURTHER COMMENT BY SEPTTEL

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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